

Community,” from which this part is derived.

(b) The Joint Committee may establish Joint Sectoral Committees comprised of appropriate regulatory authorities and others deemed necessary.

(c) The United States and the EC shall each have one vote in the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee shall make its decisions by unanimous consent. The Joint Committee shall determine its own rules and procedures.

(d) The Joint Committee may consider any matter relating to the effective functioning of that agreement. In particular it shall be responsible for:

(1) Listing, suspension, withdrawal and verification of conformity assessment bodies (CAB's) in accordance with that agreement;

(2) Amending transitional arrangements in the sectoral annexes to that agreement;

(3) Resolving any questions relating to the application of that agreement not otherwise resolved in the respective Joint Sectoral Committees;

(4) Providing a forum for discussion of issues that may arise concerning the implementation of that agreement;

(5) Considering ways to enhance the operation of that agreement;

(6) Coordinating the negotiation of additional sectoral annexes to that agreement; and

(7) Considering whether to amend that agreement in accordance with § 26.80.

(e) When a party introduces new or additional conformity assessment procedures affecting a sectoral annex to that agreement, the parties shall discuss the matter in the Joint Committee with a view to bringing such new or additional procedures within the scope of that agreement and the relevant sectoral annex.

§ 26.74 Preservation of regulatory authority.

(a) Nothing in this part shall be construed to limit the authority of a party to determine, through its legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures, the level of protection it considers appropriate for safety; for protection of human, animal, or plant life or health; for the environment; for consumers; and otherwise with regard to

risks within the scope of the applicable subpart A or B of this part.

(b) Nothing in this part shall be construed to limit the authority of a regulatory authority to take all appropriate and immediate measures whenever it ascertains that a product may:

(1) Compromise the health or safety of persons in its territory;

(2) Not meet the legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions within the scope of the applicable subpart A or B of this part; or

(3) Otherwise fail to satisfy a requirement within the scope of the applicable subpart A or B of this part. Such measures may include withdrawing the products from the market, prohibiting their placement on the market, restricting their free movement, initiating a product recall, and preventing the recurrence of such problems, including through a prohibition on imports. If the regulatory authority takes such action, it shall inform its counterpart authority and the other party within 15 days of taking such action, providing its reasons.

§ 26.75 Suspension of recognition obligations.

Either party may suspend its obligations under subpart A or B of this part, in whole or in part, if:

(a) A party suffers a loss of market access for the party's products within the scope of subpart A or B of this part as a result of the failure of the other party to fulfill its obligations under this part;

(b) The adoption of new or additional conformity assessment requirements as referenced in § 26.73(e) results in a loss of market access for the party's products within the scope of subpart B of this part because conformity assessment bodies (CAB's) designated by the party in order to meet such requirements have not been recognized by the party implementing the requirements; or

(c) The other party fails to maintain legal and regulatory authorities capable of implementing the provisions of this part.

§ 26.76 Confidentiality.

(a) Each party agrees to maintain, to the extent required under its laws, the

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confidentiality of information exchanged under this part.

(b) In particular, neither party shall disclose to the public, nor permit a conformity assessment body (CAB) to disclose to the public, information exchanged under this part that constitutes trade secrets, confidential commercial or financial information, or information that relates to an ongoing investigation.

(c) A party or a CAB may, upon exchanging information with the other party or with a CAB of the other party, designate the portions of the information that it considers to be exempt from disclosure.

(d) Each party shall take all precautions reasonably necessary to protect information exchanged under this part from unauthorized disclosure.

§ 26.77 Fees.

Each party shall endeavor to ensure that fees imposed for services under this part shall be commensurate with the services provided. Each party shall ensure that, for the sectors and conformity assessment procedures covered under this part, it shall charge no fees with respect to conformity assessment services provided by the other party.

§ 26.78 Agreements with other countries.

Except where there is written agreement between the parties, obligations contained in mutual recognition agreements concluded by either party with a party not a party to the agreement from which this part is derived (a third party) shall have no force and effect with regard to the other party in terms of acceptance of the results of conformity assessment procedures in the third party.

§ 26.79 Territorial application.

The agreement from which this part is derived shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Community (EC) is applied, and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty and, on the other hand, to the territory of the United States.

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§ 26.80 Entry into force, amendment, and termination.

(a) The “Agreement on Mutual Recognition Between the United States of America and the European Community,” from which this part is derived, including its sectoral annexes on telecommunication equipment, electromagnetic compatibility, electrical safety, recreational craft, pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspections, and medical devices shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the parties have exchanged letters confirming the completion of their respective procedures for the entry into force of that agreement.

(b) That agreement including any sectoral annex may, through the Joint Committee, be amended in writing by the parties to that agreement. Those parties may add a sectoral annex upon the exchange of letters. Such annex shall enter into force 30 days following the date on which those parties have exchanged letters confirming the completion of their respective procedures for the entry into force of the sectoral annex.

(c) Either party to that agreement may terminate that agreement in its entirety or any individual sectoral annex thereof by giving the other party to that agreement 6-months notice in writing. In the case of termination of one or more sectoral annexes, the parties to that agreement will seek to achieve by consensus to amend that agreement, with a view to preserving the remaining Sectoral Annexes, in accordance with the procedures in this section. Failing such consensus, that agreement shall terminate at the end of 6 months from the date of notice.

(d) Following termination of that agreement in its entirety or any individual sectoral annex thereof, a party to that agreement shall continue to accept the results of conformity assessment procedures performed by conformity assessment bodies under that agreement prior to termination, unless a regulatory authority in the party decides otherwise based on health, safety and environmental considerations or failure to satisfy other requirements within the scope of the applicable sectoral annex.